

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

Per this amendment, please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please also amend pending claims 2, 3, 5 and 45-48, and add new dependent claims 49-51 as noted below.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The pipette module of claim 48[[1]], wherein a third part of the chamber is variable by relative movement of the rod relative to the fixed relative positions of the channel block and cylinder.

3. (Currently Amended) The pipette module of claim 48 [[1]], wherein the diameter of the rod is greater than the diameter of the cylinder, providing an annular space between the inner surface of the channel block and the outer surface of the cylinder, defining said first part of the chamber.

4. (Previously Presented) The pipette module of claim 2, wherein the diameter of the rod is less than the inner diameter of the channel block, providing an annular space between the inside surface of the channel block and the outside surface of the rod, defining said third part of the chamber.

5. (Currently Amended) A pipette module comprising:
a channel block having at least one passage extending therethrough;
a rod sized, shaped and aligned to pass into the channel block passage;
a cylinder having a passage extending therethrough, the cylinder sized, shaped and aligned to pass into the channel block passage from the end opposite the end into which the rod passes;
a chamber defined by the channel block, rod, and cylinder, having a volume which is variable during the pipetting operation of the pipette module, with a first part of the chamber

variable by relative movement of the channel block relative to the fixed relative positions of the rod and cylinder, and with a second part of the chamber variable by relative movement of the cylinder relative to the fixed relative positions of the rod and channel block;

~~The pipette module of claim 1, further comprising:~~

a tip having a passageway therethrough, extending downwardly from the bottom of the cylinder; and

an extension mandrel with a passageway extending therethrough, the mandrel attached at an end of the cylinder such that the passageway extending through the mandrel is aligned with the passage extending through the cylinder, wherein the mandrel reduces the internal volume within the tip.

6. (Previously Presented) The pipette module of claim 5, wherein the extension mandrel is removably secured to the cylinder.

7- 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) The pipette module of claim 48 [[1]], wherein no portion of the rod extends into the passage extending through the cylinder.

46. (Currently Amended) The pipette module of claim 48 [[1]], wherein at least a portion of the passage is axially extending through the cylinder.

47. (Currently Amended) A pipette module comprising:
a channel block having at least one passage extending therethrough;
a rod sized, shaped and aligned to pass into the channel block passage;
a cylinder having a passage extending therethrough, the cylinder sized, shaped and aligned to pass into the channel block passage from the end opposite the end into which the rod passes;
a chamber defined by the channel block, rod, and cylinder, having a volume which is variable during the pipetting operation of the pipette module, with a first part of the chamber

variable by relative movement of the channel block relative to the fixed relative positions of the rod and cylinder, and with a second part of the chamber variable by relative movement of the cylinder relative to the fixed relative positions of the rod and channel block; and

~~The pipette module of claim 1,~~ wherein the passage extending through the cylinder extends entirely through the cylinder from one end of the cylinder through to an opposite end of the cylinder.

48. (Currently Amended) A pipette module comprising:
a channel block having at least one passage extending therethrough;
a rod sized, shaped and aligned to pass into the channel block passage;
a cylinder having a passage extending therethrough, the cylinder sized, shaped and aligned to pass into the channel block passage from the end opposite the end into which the rod passes;
a chamber defined by the channel block, rod, and cylinder, having a volume which is variable during the pipetting operation of the pipette module, with a first part of the chamber variable by relative movement of the channel block relative to the fixed relative positions of the rod and cylinder, and with a
~~The pipette module of claim 1, wherein the~~ second part of the chamber is variable by relative movement of the cylinder relative to the simultaneously fixed relative positions of the rod and channel block.

49. (New) The pipette module of claim 47, wherein a third part of the chamber is variable by relative movement of the rod relative to the fixed relative positions of the channel block and cylinder.

50. (New) The pipette module of claim 47, wherein the diameter of the rod is greater than the diameter of the cylinder, providing an annular space between the inner surface of the channel block and the outer surface of the cylinder, defining said first part of the chamber.

51. (New) The pipette module of claim 49, wherein the diameter of the rod is less than the inner diameter of the channel block, providing an annular space between the inside surface of the channel block and the outside surface of the rod, defining said third part of the chamber.